

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELGRA 01495 111343Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----111344Z 124895 /53
O 111229Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9851

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1495

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: CA ET YO (BELACHEW JAMANEH)
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR AND DEPENDENTS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 2338, (B) BRUSSELS 2169 (NOTAL),
(C) BELGRADE 1312 (NOTAL)

1. NOTE : THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM EXDIS REFTEL C CONCERNING
ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGRADE, BELACHEW JEMANEH'S
REQUEST FOR CANADIAN ASYLUM. CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE HAS REQUESTED
THAT ALL INFORMATION BE HELD IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE. ABSOLUTELY
NO MENTION SHOULD BE MADE TO MRS. JEMANEH OF THE FOLLOWING OR OF
EMBASSY BELGRADE'S INTEREST IN THE CASE.

2. BEGIN EXCERPT. CANADIAN COUNS. IN BELGRADE INFORMED US MARCH
3, THAT ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR, COL. BELACHEW JEMANEH HAS REQUESTED
ASYLUM IN CANADA. REQUEST APPARENTLY MADE DURING ETHIOPIAN PMAC
VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA FEB 24-28. ACCORDING TO CANADIAN
COUNS., ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAD REQUESTED AMBASSADOR'S IMMEDIATE
RETURN TO ADDIS OSTENSIBLY FOR CONSULTATION. ETHIOPIAN AMB DECLINED
TO RETURN FOR REASONS UNKNOWN BUT PRESUMABLY OUT OF FEAR FOR PERSONAL
SAFETY. ACCORDING TO CANADIAN COUNS., GOY AWARE THAT JEMANEH
NO LONGER ENJOYS AMBASSADORIAL STANDING.

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3. CANADIAN COUNS. STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT NOW CONSIDERING
JEMANEH'S REQUEST, BUT IN VIEW OF CANADA'S HUMAN RIGHTS POSTURE
GOC IS TROUBLED BY FACT THAT AMBASSADOR'S CAREER INCLUDED A STINT
AS ETHIOPIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER. WHILE EXTENT OF HIS
PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IF ANY IN BLOODLETTING IN THAT COUNTRY
UNKNOWN TO CANADIANS HERE THEY BELIEVE IT WILL BE A MAJOR FACTOR
IN OTTAWA'S FINAL DECISION. THE CANADIANS HERE APPEAR UNCOMFORTABLE

WITH ETHIOPIAN'S REQUEST AND HAVE BEEN MAKING DISCREET INQUIRIES WITH CERTAIN WESTERN EMBASSIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHETHER BELACHEW JEMANEH MAY BE SEEKING ASYLUM IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN CANADA, HIS AVOWED INTENT TO RESIDE PERMANENTLY IN CANADA, A PREREQUISITE FOR THEIR GRANTING ASYLUM, WOULD BE CAST IN DOUBT.

4. CANADIANS HERE, APART FROM INQUIRY ABOUT SUBJECT'S POSSIBLY SEEKING ASYLUM IN U.S., HAVE MADE NO REQUEST OF EMBASSY BELGRADE IN THIS MATTER. HOWEVER, MRS. BELACHEW JEMANEH REQUESTED OF WIFE OF USIS FIRST SECRETARY PERMISSION TO STORE TRUNK WITH SOME PERSONAL EFFECTS IN AMERICAN'S HOME WHILE SHE IN WESTERN EUROPE. TRUNK NEVER DELIVERED. END EXCERPT.

5. IT APPEARS THAT BRUSSELS APPLICANT IS THE WIFE OF THE ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR HERE. WE WISH REPEAT STRICTURES ON DIVULGING ANY OF FOREGOING TO MRS. JEMANEH. YORK

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